



## **U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) Hosts Staffers from the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea on International Visitor Leadership Program (February 24, 2011)**

Five staffers from the Grand National Party (GNP), National Assembly of the Republic of Korea attended a PACOM Command Brief and Q&A session by Col Mark Hague, Director, Northeast Asia Policy Division, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate. The staffers were participating in an IVLP: U.S. - Korea Alliance: A Global Partnership, coordinated by the Pacific Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) in Honolulu, Hawaii. All participants had previously visited U.S. bases in Korea and expressed high interest in U.S. defense and security policy in the region and the Korean Peninsula in particular. The discussions centered on base relocations, transfer of operational control, recent tensions with North Korea, nuclear disarmament of the Korean Peninsula, and U.S.-Korea Alliance issues.

The group's visit to PACOM was part of a broader three week program that included meetings in Washington D.C.; Pensacola, FL; Seattle, WA; Riverside, CA, and Honolulu, HI, during which the participants examined the role of local, state, and federal governments as well as civil society organizations, think tanks, and citizen groups in influencing, creating, and implementing economic, business and trade, foreign, and social policies. Additional objectives included discussions on U.S. policy towards the Korean Peninsula, including the White House's 2009 Joint Vision for the Alliance of the U.S. and ROK; denuclearization; defense and security issues; human rights; and the exploration of sustainable development and clean energy efforts and initiatives.

The Pacific and Asian Affairs Council's mission is to promote a greater awareness and understanding of foreign affairs issues with special attention to Hawaii's role in the Asia-Pacific region. The Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) is an independent, international educational non-profit and serves as the World Affairs Council for the State of Hawai'i. PAAC has continuously brought substantive and critical issues of foreign affairs to Hawaii through its Speaker Forums, International Visitor Leadership Program, UHCC International Affairs Outreach Program, High School Global Education Program, and Career Exploration Program.